New Orleans April 6th 1866

My Dear Mother

Your letter was duly rec'd after it was mailed – but it was indeed a long time before it got into the P. Office. However I have a very clear conscience. I believe nearly all my correspondents are indebted to me & as long as that is the case I feel quite satisfied. Yours Mother was very acceptable on many accounts. It showed us that your mind was still vigorous & that you were engaging yourself upon the whole "right side" I think Brother is peculiarly fortunate in some things. His name will doubtless descend to posterity. But I will not complain. I have more than I deserve of the good things of this life. And if I am not blessed with boys that I may call my own I shall not be accountable hereafter for the mode I have reared them. Remember me & my Wife affectionately to Brother & Clarissa & tell Clarissa that I have just seen the Rev Mr Kerr of whom she spoke to me when I was at Byron. He passed high encomiums upon her beauty & her

many mattins & Excellencies & congratulations on having a brother so singularly happy as to secure such a treasure in a Wife. Tell Brother we have got into our new Church & a splendid one it is too for this section. Bishop Polk says it is the handsomest Ch Edifice in the Diocese of Louisiana. Its cost is about 60,000 dlls & will seat about 700 persons. When the pews are all rented the income will be 3750 dolls. Good Rectors — Estimable men tell me in two years. It will be overflowing. It will not be large enough for me. The Governor of this state has recently taken a pew in it & other principal citizens are regular attendants. I have now 40 communicants & several ready for confirmation my usual congregation is now about 300 & is increasing. All this is flattering enough after a beginning of only 16 months since with some 13 persons in a private room. But Mother I am not puffed up nor vain. I have lived long enough to see the folly of all things here below. I am thankful to God daily so that he uses me an unworthy instrument to effect such great & glorious things. And what I fear most is that I shall not evince my gratitude as I ought by laboring faithfully in his Cause. I was never so happy in my Ministry as now. I give my whole heart & time to the work & the Lord is prospering me every where.

Charlotte & Lucy are very well & very happy. I was glad to hear you intimate a willingness to go & see your brother & friends in Massachusetts. Write immediately & tell me what funds you want or what time you wish to start or if you wish to go before you could write & receive an answer. Brother can borrow funds enough for you & I will see that my full share of it is paid. Go by all means. Mother I am in a great hurry this morning. We are all well. The city is healthy. We have green peas berries & all sorts of things that you will have in June. Lucy sends much love to the Children. Write soon.

Yours as Ever

N. O. Preston

APR 6 La.

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Mrs Mary P Fisher
care of Rev J.B. Preston
Byron
N.Y